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Coordination, programme and other questions: mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis-Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[1] and recalling its resolutions 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, 2002/23 of 24 July 2002, 2003/49 of 24 July 2003, 2004/4 of 7 July 2004, 2005/31 of 26 July 2005, 2006/36 of 27 July 2006, 2007/33 of 27 July 2007, 2008/34 of 25 July 2008, 2009/12 of 28 July 2009, 2010/29 of 23 July 2010 and 2011/6 of 14 July 2011,

Reaffirming also the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[2] the 2005 World Summit,[3] the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[4] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming further that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming further the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender,[3]

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.
[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[3] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.
[4] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

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Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and constitutes a critical strategy in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[5] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[6]

Recalling the section of General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women",

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General[7] and the recommendations contained therein, and calls for further and continued efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations in accordance with all relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council;

2. *Stresses* that the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality constitutes a key forum for achieving more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system and for the exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas and practical experiences on gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and looks forward to the continued implementation of the policy and strategy for gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

3. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to continue mainstreaming the issue of gender in accordance with previous resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, in particular resolution 2008/34, and General Assembly resolution 64/289, including mainstreaming a gender perspective into all operational mechanisms, including, inter alia, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other development frameworks, ensuring that managers provide leadership and support, within the United Nations system, to advance gender mainstreaming, strengthening monitoring, reporting and evaluation so as to allow system-wide assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, and using existing training resources, including institutions and infrastructure, to assist in the development and application of unified training modules and tools on gender mainstreaming and to promote the collection, analysis and use of accurate, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by sex and age, during programme development and the evaluation of gender mainstreaming in order to assess progress towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Also requests* the United Nations system to continue to support Member States, with their agreement and consent, in the implementation of national policies for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, inter alia, by providing support and capacity development to national machineries for the advancement of women;

5. *Welcomes* the development of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, under the leadership of

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[5] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[6] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[7] E/2012/61.

the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and its adoption by the United Nations Chief Executives Board in April 2012 as an accountability framework to be fully implemented by the United Nations system, and calls upon the United Nations system to actively engage in its roll-out;

6. *Calls upon* UN-Women, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/289:

(a) To continue to fully undertake its role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to ensure that any new mandates shall be subject to approval by intergovernmental process;

(b) In the context of its work at the field level, to continue to operate as part of the resident coordinator system, within the United Nations country team, leading and coordinating the work of the country team on gender equality and the empowerment of women, under the overall leadership of the resident coordinator;

(c) On the basis of the principle of universality, to continue to provide, through its normative support functions and operational activities, guidance and technical support to all Member States, across all levels of development and in all regions, at their request, on gender equality, the empowerment and rights of women and gender mainstreaming;

(d) To continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work;

7. *Recognizes* that large gaps remain between policy and practice and that building United Nations staff capacities alone is not sufficient for the entire United Nations system to meet its commitments and obligations with respect to gender mainstreaming;

8. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes within their respective organizational mandates and in line with existing rules and regulations governing selection and recruitment processes in the relevant organizations, to continue working collaboratively to enhance gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, including by:

(a) Continuing to work to better align gender equality programming with national priorities, as requested by the Member State concerned, with the aim of integrating gender mainstreaming into policies, legislation and programmes;

(b) Promoting a facilitative and evolving environment for gender mainstreaming at the headquarters level and ensuring that entities within the United Nations system dedicate adequate financial and human resources to gender equality programming at the country level;

(c) Strengthening the coordination of gender-responsive operational activities among entities of the United Nations system through existing coordination mechanisms at the country level and in partnership, where appropriate, with other relevant entities and national partners;

(d) Ensuring that the various existing accountability mechanisms of the United Nations system provide for more coherent, accurate and effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting on gender equality results and on the tracking

of gender-related resource allocation and expenditure, including through the promotion of the use, where appropriate, of gender markers, and by encouraging the use by United Nations country teams of gender accountability mechanisms to assist and improve their performance at the country level;

(e) Supporting UN-Women in its promotion of increased accountability for gender mainstreaming, including through the systematic use of monitoring and reporting mechanisms, including for United Nations country teams and for assessing individual staff performance;

(f) Securing technical expertise for gender equality in programme planning and implementation to ensure that gender dimensions are systematically addressed and, in this regard, to draw on the gender expertise available in the United Nations system, including in UN-Women, to assist in the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other development programming frameworks;

(g) Providing ongoing capacity development in the area of gender mainstreaming for all United Nations staff and personnel at the country level, including resident coordinators and members of the United Nations country teams, particularly gender experts, to ensure that they are better able to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(h) Collecting, analysing, using and disseminating comparable data, disaggregated by sex and age, in a regular and systematic manner to guide country programming investments, to support the preparation of corporate and country-level documents, such as the strategic, programmatic and results-based frameworks, and to continue to refine their tools for measuring progress and impact;

(i) Ensuring progress, including through managerial and departmental accountability, towards achieving the goal of a 50/50 gender balance at all levels in the Secretariat and throughout the United Nations system, with due regard to the representation of women from developing countries and keeping in mind the principle of equitable geographical representation, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its next substantive session, in 2013, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including the promotion of accountability and progress made in the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan.